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Chairman: Mr. Gómez Robledo ..... (Mexico)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 100: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/61/37, A/61/178, A/61/210 and Add.1 and A/61/280)

1. **Mr. Lim** (Singapore) said that, despite the international community's best efforts since the attack on the World Trade Center on 11 September 2001, the threat of terrorism continued to lurk and it was clear that terrorists were planning for the long term. The attacks which had been perpetrated since 2001 were not isolated incidents, but were part of a broader campaign. The methods which had been employed also pointed to sophisticated planning by a transnational network of cells and individuals spread out across the world. Global terrorism posed a new security challenge because terrorists did not respect national, geographic, religious or ethnic boundaries; it tested the resilience of countries' social fabric by fomenting distrust and disrupting racial and religious harmony.

2. The launching of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy underscored the world's commitment to fight terrorism. States would fall into the terrorists' trap if terrorism were to be associated with particular religions, nationalities, civilizations or ethnic groups. Building on initiatives like the Alliance of Civilizations and the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace to bring civilizations together would provide a far more effective response.

3. The United Nations had long displayed its commitment to countering terrorism, but terrorist organizations had become increasingly sophisticated and it was not unreasonable to assume that they would use more destructive weaponry if ever they had the chance. Since the idea of terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction was absolutely chilling, all States must move quickly and decisively to prevent them from doing so.

4. His Government had endeavoured to implement measures to increase security in a number of vital areas and had seriously studied the threat of bioterrorism. Its experience with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 had taught it the value of establishing ties between the local scientific community and agencies involved in security, safety and health. Confidence-building measures helped to dispel rumours, and other measures such as home quarantine avoided disruption of day-to-day living. Greater public awareness and social harmony were also powerful tools for countering terrorism, but no matter how effective national measures were, it was still vital to exchange intelligence and join in counter-terrorist activities with regional partners.

5. The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a good first step, and it was to be hoped that the consensus reached on the Strategy would provide impetus for the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

6. Terrorism threatened the very principles on which the United Nations was founded. Member States must not allow terrorists to divide and destroy them. Their efforts within the Committee were part of the process of winning the war on terrorism.

7. **Mr. Adamou** (Niger) said that his Government vigorously condemned the atrocious events of 11 September 2001 which had, however, led to the mobilization of the international community and the adoption of numerous instruments aimed at the prevention and elimination of one of the biggest threats to international peace and security, namely terrorism.

8. The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had been an auspicious development, since it had demonstrated that all the Member States were aware of the grave threats stemming from terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose. His Government fully endorsed the Strategy, but urged all Member States to pursue their endeavours to close the main gaps in it, notably the lack of a clear and universally acceptable definition of the notion of terrorism, so that negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention could be successfully concluded.

9. Although the authorities of his country were concerned by other issues connected with fighting poverty and promoting development, during the current year they had contributed to the struggle against terrorism by ratifying three of the main counter-terrorism instruments. Nevertheless they believed that the best way to eradicate that scourge was to remove its underlying causes. The extremely difficult, or even inhuman, conditions in which the majority of people on the planet lived could foster such deviant behaviour. It was therefore essential for the international community

to take account of economic aspects, fairness, justice and respect for human rights and human dignity in any approach to counter-terrorism.

10. **Mr. Malmierca Díaz** (Cuba) said that Cuba emphatically condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever and against whomsoever committed and wherever they occurred, irrespective of their motivations, including those in which States were directly or indirectly involved. Cuba had never allowed and would never allow its national territory to be used to carry out, plan or finance terrorist acts against any other State, without exception. At the same time, Cuba strongly rejected the use of counter-terrorism as a pretext to justify intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States. Similarly, it rejected the manipulation by some States of the inherent right to self-defence to justify State-sponsored acts of terrorism.

11. Terrorism was a phenomenon that had to be fought by the entire international community in an atmosphere of close cooperation, with respect for the Charter of the United Nations and international law. His delegation was therefore pleased that the General Assembly, reaffirming its key role in matters related to international peace and security, had adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Nevertheless, it would be impossible to eradicate terrorism if some terrorist acts were condemned while others were hushed up, tolerated or justified.

12. It was important to endeavour to conclude negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism in order to fill the legal lacunae that existed in previous United Nations instruments on the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism should contain a clear and precise definition of the crime of terrorism, including all its forms and manifestations, setting out the material and mental elements of the crime and the responsibilities of both natural and legal persons. The activities of State armed forces that were not governed by international humanitarian law should not be excluded from the scope of application of the future comprehensive convention, as such an exclusion could be used to justify actions by some States aimed at destabilizing others. A comprehensive convention should also draw a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination.

13. Cuba fully supported all legitimate international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. However, his delegation was of the view that the only sure way to ensure that weapons of mass destruction did not fall into the hands of terrorists was to prohibit and eliminate such weapons altogether.

14. Since 1959, the Cuban people had been the victims of countless terrorist acts, which had resulted in the death or injury of thousands of people and caused the country huge economic losses. It was well known that such terrorist acts were planned, financed and executed from the territory of the United States of America, where for more than four decades dozens of recognized and self-confessed terrorists had been circulating freely, perpetrating attacks against his country with impunity. His delegation wished to recall that under the terms of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), those who harboured terrorists or provided financing for acts of terrorism were just as guilty of terrorism as those who actually committed such acts.

15. Orlando Bosch, one of the persons responsible for the mid-air bombing of a Cuban airliner 30 years earlier, not only walked free on the streets of Miami, but frequently appeared on television and gave interviews to the press, boasting entirely without remorse about his numerous terrorist acts against Cuba. Another of those responsible for that crime was the notorious international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles. The United States refused to comply with its international obligation either to try him or to extradite him to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to face charges. Although the United States Government itself acknowledged that Posada Carriles was a dangerous terrorist, he was currently being held in Texas, charged only with illegal immigration. Moreover, a few days earlier a federal judge had recommended his release, and the Attorney General had declined to submit the overwhelming evidence in his possession that proved that Posada Carriles was a known terrorist.

16. Those who were harbouring Luis Posada Carriles, Orlando Bosch and other known terrorists on their territory were the same people who were holding, in maximum-security prisons, five Cuban men who were true warriors against terrorism: Gerardo Hernández,

Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero and René González, who had only been trying to obtain information about Miami-based terrorist groups in order to prevent them from committing violent acts and save the lives of Cuban and United States citizens.

17. Cuba would not rest until Posada Carriles, Orlando Bosch and other terrorists of their ilk were convicted of their crimes. Cuba would continue to support the legitimate request by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the extradition of Posada Carriles. Cuba would continue to denounce the cruel detention of five heroes in the war against terrorism. The Cuban people would not give up their battle to have them returned, their freedom and dignity restored, to their homeland. Cuba would, however, with full respect for international law, continue lending its unstinting support for all genuine efforts of the international community to fight the scourge of terrorism.

18. **Mr. Kanu** (Sierra Leone) said that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted a threat to civilization. Notwithstanding the concerted efforts of the international community, it was on the increase all over the world. No terrorist act or systematic attacks on civilian populations could be justified for any cause whatsoever. His Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations committed by whomever and wherever, but it believed that the exercise of the legitimate rights of States, peoples and individuals under international law should not be regarded as terrorism.

19. The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy showed that, provided States had the political will and commitment, they could find a compromise solution to the pressing issues facing humankind. If the same spirit of commitment were demonstrated at the current session, it would be possible to complete work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

20. The current approach to combating terrorism had not been successful because it had failed to address the root causes of the phenomenon. Terrorism was not exclusive to a particular region, people or religion; it had infested the international body politic like fleas infesting the body of an animal. Scratching a flea bite simply caused the flea to move to another part of the body. The best way of tackling the problem of terrorism, therefore, would be to convene an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a unified response. All stakeholders, including non-State actors, should be invited to the conference, which should be mandated to examine all aspects of terrorism, including its root causes.

21. **Mr. Makayat-Safouesse** (Republic of the Congo) said that the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a big step forward in the collective response to a scourge which could be eradicated only by concerted international action. Since his Government rejected terrorism in any form and for whatever purpose, because it undermined the foundations of States and the values underpinning the United Nations, it had ratified most of the relevant conventions and had striven tirelessly to implement the measures introduced by Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and those adopted by the Organization of African Unity to prevent and combat terrorism. It had presented three reports to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (Counter-Terrorism Committee) and had set up an interdepartmental coordinating body to harmonize the provisions of the penal code with those of international legal instruments on combating terrorism and international organized crime.

22. In that connection his Government was grateful for the technical assistance it had received from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). As closer international cooperation was essential of international terrorism was to be vanquished, he called on all donors to provide adequate funding for technical assistance activities. The latter were indispensable for many developing countries whose action at the national level often became mired in difficulties related to the training of experts, the techniques of implementing conventions and the establishment and running of financial intelligence services.

23. The work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, together with the activities of other United Nations bodies, illustrated the Organization's ability to mobilize Governments and issue universal, binding standards.

24. He endorsed the comments contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 (A/61/17) and looked forward to the rapid conclusion of the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which should culminate in an international conference held under the auspices of the United Nations.

25. **Mr. Pratomo** (Indonesia) said that the successful adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy bore witness to the international community's earnest efforts to seek collective ways to combat the scourge of terrorism. It would be necessary to implement the Strategy assiduously if it were to yield tangible results.

26. His Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and had made it a top priority of national security policy. It was searching for effective ways of eradicating the root causes of terrorism through multilateral cooperation and global partnership. The international counter-terrorism campaign could be won only through a comprehensive and balanced approach in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international human rights covenants.

27. His country's authorities had enacted several laws to curb terrorism, had acceded to six of the relevant international legal instruments and had submitted written reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and Associated Individuals and Entities and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). In collaboration with the Australian Government, they had established the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, which would help to consolidate concerted action in the Asia and Pacific region.

28. Rejecting any notion that associated terrorism with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, he noted with concern the growing tendency to suggest that such a link existed. It was therefore extremely important to build cultural bridges and to use dialogue to promote mutual understanding in a process that embraced community leaders, scholars and the mass media. Interfaith dialogue was a tool for nurturing tolerance among peoples of different cultural and religious backgrounds. It would also help to promote an awareness of the dangers of radicalism and extremism, both of which might fuel terrorism. In order to win the hearts and minds of people, it was equally important to display a commitment to resolving the conflicts caused by foreign occupation and to addressing local grievances deriving from socio-economic marginalization.

29. Similarly, it was essential to lay a strong legal foundation for combating terrorism. It was therefore to be hoped that the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had generated enough momentum to expedite the conclusion of negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism at the current session. In order to achieve such an outcome it would, however, be necessary to arrive at a convergence of viewpoints on the definition of terrorism. The convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations might facilitate the flexibility required for such a meeting of minds.

30. **Mr. Kerr** (Australia), speaking on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ), said that the CANZ delegations condemned all acts of terrorism, committed wherever, by whomever and for whatever purpose. The terrorist attacks of the past year pointed up the need for the international community to remain vigilant against the threat of terrorism and united in its unequivocal condemnation of it. Terrorism was a global phenomenon which required a global response. The CANZ group therefore welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the most comprehensive counter-terrorism statement ever adopted by the General Assembly. The CANZ delegations called on all States to implement the Strategy and, in so doing, to refute extremist ideologies, which the CANZ group regarded as one of the conditions which might be conducive to the spread of terrorism. In its modern guise, terrorism was often committed, wrongly, in the name of religion. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were committed to addressing the threat presented by terrorists such as Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, whose radical ideology had been taken up transnationally by others who found it compelling.

31. The Strategy incorporated some, but not all, of the recommendations put forward in the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/825). The CANZ group therefore believed that that report remained a valuable

contribution to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. The three countries also strongly supported the ongoing counter-terrorism work of the committees established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), and urged all States to meet their obligations under those and other relevant Security Council resolutions. Those obligations could, however, place heavy burdens on smaller developing countries, such as those of the Pacific Islands Forum. The CANZ group remained concerned about the heavy counter-terrorism reporting requirements imposed by subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, and called on the Council to consider ways to reduce that burden.

32. The United Nations had been effective in establishing counter-terrorism norms at the global level, but remaining gaps in the legal framework should be closed in order to prevent future terrorist attacks. All States should become parties to the 13 existing counter-terrorism conventions. At the same time, States must redouble their efforts to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, thereby demonstrating an unambiguous commitment to criminalize all terrorist acts and to cooperate in the prosecution of those responsible for such acts.

33. At the regional level, the CANZ countries were actively engaged in countering the terrorist threat. In Canada, the Counter-Terrorism Capacity-Building Programme provided training, funding, equipment, technical and legal assistance to other States to enable them to prevent and respond to terrorist activity in a manner consistent with international counter-terrorism and human rights norms, standards and obligations. New Zealand, too, had dedicated funding to assist with counter-terrorism capacity-building in the Pacific region. New Zealand convened the Pacific Islands Forum Working Group on Counter-Terrorism each year and was a strong supporter of the Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue, which aimed to address some of the underlying factors that could lead to terrorism.

34. Australia had adopted a comprehensive range of measures and allocated significant funding to build counter-terrorism capacity in South-East Asia and the Pacific. Australian agencies had developed extensive collaboration with regional counterparts in key counter-terrorism areas such as law enforcement, defence, border and transport security, financial monitoring, intelligence and legal affairs. The CANZ group would continue to work at the national, regional and global levels, and in close cooperation with other States, to overcome the grave threat of terrorism.

35. **Mr. Popkov** (Belarus) said that terrorism had become one of the most serious threats to the international community, to the security of mankind and to the stability of social and political institutions in all regions of the world. The barbaric acts of terrorism perpetrated on 11 September 2001 had ushered in a new phase in combating all manifestations of terrorism and had presented the international community with two alternatives for countering that scourge: the path of force or the path of peace. Despite the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which had laid the foundations for the establishment of a peaceful global coalition against terrorism, priority had been given to methods of force for crushing terrorism.

36. Although the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy did not fully cater to the interests of all States, it demonstrated the international community's awareness of the fact that it was impossible to quell terrorism through force alone. The advantage of the Strategy was that it contained measures aimed not only at depriving terrorists of the means for carrying out their sinister acts, but also at eliminating the underlying causes of terrorism. Implementation of the Strategy would make it possible to overcome the shortcomings and bias of the global antiterrorist coalition.

37. His Government condemned terrorism as a means of waging a political struggle, even when the latter was aimed at achieving just objectives. Yet the justified indignation of the international community over international terrorism's brutal attacks must not be used to whittle away the legitimate rights of States and peoples. International law must be observed and fundamental human rights and freedoms must be preserved when fighting terrorism.

38. His Government endeavoured to cooperate closely with the three main Security Council committees involved in countering terrorism, and it was a party to 12 of the international conventions on combating terrorism. The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism was in the process of being ratified in his country. Moreover, his Government fully supported the Security Council

resolutions on fighting terrorism and broadening the dialogue among civilizations.

39. All States must fully cooperate in the struggle against terrorism in accordance with their obligations under international law. The chief aim of such cooperation was the identification of those who supported terrorism or who participated in the financing, planning, preparation or execution of terrorist acts or who provided safe haven for terrorists. The adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism would provide the soundest basis for the joint fight against terrorism by filling the serious gaps which existed in international legal standards and by giving a new meaning to the campaign to stamp out terrorism. It was to be hoped that consensus would soon be reached on the draft convention and that differences of opinion regarding some of its provisions would not be an obstacle to preserving the integrity of the text. To that end, he urged the convening of a high-level international conference on terrorism.

40. Belarus was willing to cooperate in the struggle against terrorism at the regional level as well, and to that end it participated in the counter-terrorist activities of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Europe must act in a more united manner in order to face up to the threat of international terrorism and transnational organized crime. Although his Government was unable to accede to all the international legal instruments and counter-terrorist programmes of the Council of Europe because they were closed and did not provide for the participation of all the contributors to European security, it was pursuing a targeted policy of stemming the tide of illegal migration to western Europe, since there were grounds for believing that such migration was bolstering terrorist groups and criminal gangs. In that regard, his delegation felt that international conventions on combating crime and terrorism should not be closed, and those adopted by regional international organizations should allow the access of all States in the region to the mechanisms for cooperation established in them.

41. **Mr. Arrad** (Bahrain) said that Bahrain welcomed the emphasis by the Secretary-General's report, entitled "Uniting against terrorism: recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy" (A/60/825), that the struggle against terrorism should not be used as a pretext for the violation of human rights and freedoms, that it should abide by international law and that it should address the underlying causes of terrorism. His delegation also welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of a counter-terrorism strategy that was global and confronted terrorism directly, and commended the Security Council for its resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions.

42. Terrorism was not tied to any particular religion, culture or ethnicity, and Bahrain stood against efforts to link it with Islam, which was in its essence a religion of moderation and restraint. Bahrain was party to 11 of the 13 international terrorism-related conventions, had hosted the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF), established in November 2004, and continued to act in coordination with its neighbours within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Counter-Terrorism Convention (2004). The current Assembly session should adopt a comprehensive counter-terrorism convention that settled all outstanding issues, including defining terrorism and distinguishing it from the legitimate struggle of peoples for independence, and should convene a high-level international counter-terrorism conference under United Nations auspices.

43. **Mr. Lauber** (Switzerland) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy because it provided the Organization, for the first time in its history, with a comprehensive plan of action for combating terrorism on a global scale. Switzerland hoped that the General Assembly would go on, without delay, to adopt the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would complement the 13 existing conventions and protocols. His delegation regretted that differences of opinion between Member States on such fundamental issues as the definition of terrorism had not yet been resolved, and hoped that work on the text of the convention would be resumed in the same spirit of international cooperation that had prevailed during the discussions on the Strategy. Switzerland would welcome the establishment of an ad hoc working group for that purpose, with a view to finalizing the convention by the opening of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, at the latest.

44. The Strategy was balanced and consistent. It was now essential for the international community to put in place the necessary structures for its implementation at the international and national levels. The institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism

Implementation Task Force within the Secretariat was a first encouraging step in that direction. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy stressed respect for the rule of law and for human rights, which Switzerland believed was essential in order to enhance the legitimacy of counter-terrorism action. It was necessary, for example, to establish transparent procedures for the listing and de-listing of persons on United Nations sanctions lists. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the publication as document A/60/887 of a white paper entitled "Strengthening targeted sanctions through fair and clear procedures", commissioned by his country together with Germany and Sweden.

45. **Ms. Bakyono** (Burkina Faso) said that terrorism was unquestionably the greatest current threat to international peace and security. Her country shared the conviction that no State could battle terrorism on its own. The United Nations had a central role to play in coordinating the fight against terrorism, which must, unquestionably, take place in an atmosphere of respect for human rights and international law. Success, however, would depend in part on the legal arsenal that countries had at their disposal. Accordingly, countries should spare no effort to resolve the differences that remained and arrive at a consensus on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which should be binding on all Member States.

46. The battle against terrorism must be fought on several fronts, addressing all its various manifestations and, in particular, its root causes. Her delegation therefore welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and called on all Member States to commit themselves fully to implement it through practical measures at the national, regional and international levels.

47. Burkina Faso was grateful for the efforts of United Nations agencies and other international organizations to assist States in strengthening their capacity to fight terrorism. Her country had participated in the Madrid Ministerial Round Table of West and Central African Countries on a Counter-Terrorism Legal Framework in May 2006 and in the training seminar for members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in July 2006. In keeping with the declarations and plans of action adopted at those two events, Burkina Faso urged States and international organizations to promote an ongoing dialogue and joint activities aimed at strengthening their cooperation in order to prevent and suppress terrorism effectively.

48. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the Group reaffirmed its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Rio Group recognized the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as one of the most significant actions taken by the General Assembly to enhance international cooperation among Member States in the fight against terrorism, and reiterated its willingness to contribute actively to the Strategy's implementation. The countries of the Rio Group called on all partners and on the international community as a whole to build from that important step the foundation for an inclusive and dynamic process aimed at developing successful common initiatives and a shared capacity to face new challenges while countering terrorism.

49. In implementing the Strategy, it was important to take a holistic approach that included the preventive aspect of counter-terrorism. To that end, the Rio Group recognized the need for policies that promoted poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, sustainable development, democracy, global prosperity, human rights for all and the rule of law, as well as the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the elimination of foreign occupation and oppression. Such policies should include measures aimed at improving intercultural understanding and ensuring respect for all religions and cultures.

50. The Rio Group called upon Member States to settle any disputes by peaceful means, in conformity with international law, and to refrain from the use or threat of force in international relations. Any actions against terrorism must rest on respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, although it had to be recognized that terrorist acts themselves constituted a threat to the right to life, liberty and security that resulted in disrespect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. In combating terrorism, all Member States must fully comply with their human rights obligations and respect international law, in particular refugee law and international humanitarian law. Regretfully, such compliance had not been uniform throughout the world community. Serious abuses had occurred and continued to occur.

51. Some efforts to counter terrorism had generated victims of their own, causing further tragedy. Although most of the so-called "collateral damage" was categorized as unintentional, there must be a strong commitment to eliminating such occurrences and averting the often irreversible consequences. Sanctions regimes that related to terrorism must be implemented in strict observance of human rights and the dignity of individuals. Due process and the rule of law must be scrupulously followed by all United Nations bodies whose mandates included counter-terrorism, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee. The Rio Group recognized the need to improve the Committee's procedures so as to ensure respect for due process and the right of all parties to be heard. He encouraged the Committee to proceed resolutely in its delicate and important tasks, such as the revision of its procedures for listing and de-listing of individuals and associations.

52. The Rio Group stressed the importance of promptly completing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The Rio Group trusted that the convention could be agreed during the present session of the General Assembly and that a high-level conference on terrorism could be convened under the auspices of the United Nations. To that end, it encouraged a redoubling of the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee established under General Assembly resolution 51/210.

53. The Rio Group took note of the recommendation presented by the Secretary-General in his report on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" (A/61/210) regarding the streamlining of reporting procedures and would examine both the proposal and the consequences that it might have with regard to making information available to the members of the General Assembly. The Rio Group hoped that there could be greater coordination and coherence between the Security Council and the General Assembly in order to ensure that Member States received the latest information on the matter.

54. **Mr. Getahun** (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia condemned and categorically rejected all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Strategy, coupled with other United Nations instruments on terrorism, should serve as a global platform to intensify the fight against the global menace of terrorism.

55. Ethiopia, as one of the multitude of countries affected by the scourge of terrorism, had redoubled its efforts to combat it through legislative, law enforcement and other appropriate measures aimed at preventing terrorist attacks, apprehending the culprits and bringing them to justice, enhancing aviation and border security, drafting additional national legislation, enforcing legal controls on named suspects, ensuring strict financial control and signing bilateral mutual legal assistance treaties.

56. Universal adherence to international and regional instruments against terrorism was one critical aspect of enhancing international cooperation in tackling the global threat of terrorism. Ethiopia was actively pursuing the ratification of all the United Nations conventions on terrorism. Enhancing the capacity of States to respond effectively to the challenges of terrorism should also be given high priority. In Africa, the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism and the recently established Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Capacity-Building Programme against Terrorism were important landmarks deserving continued support from United Nations bodies.

57. The issue of building State capacity to defeat terrorism was well placed within the overall strategy advocated by the Secretary-General of dissuading people from resorting to or supporting terrorism, denying terrorists the means to carry out an attack, deterring States from supporting terrorism and defending human rights. Ethiopia would implement all aspects of that comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism, and it joined other delegations in urging adoption of the draft comprehensive convention without further delay.

58. **Mr. Tachie-Menson** (Ghana) said that tackling terrorism was one of the central challenges of the twenty-first century. His delegation therefore welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which provided a basis for addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism while ensuring respect for human rights. It also signalled the resolve of the international community to unite in its efforts to combat terrorism.

59. It was to be hoped that the Strategy would provide an impetus to the negotiations on the draft

comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Although progress had been made, it was regrettable that disagreement on a few outstanding issues had stalled the finalization of the text. His delegation reiterated its view that the condemnation of "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes" — the language used in the 2005 World Summit Outcome and in the new Strategy — should form the basis of any definition of terrorism in the draft convention. That formulation might also help to unlock the stalemate on other issues.

60. The text should make it clear that no cause, ideology, religion, creed or grievance justified the deliberate and wanton killing of civilians and non-combatants. The definition of terrorism should be a purely legal formulation; in other words, it should not be coloured by political, religious, cultural or other considerations. The draft convention should also have as one of its objectives the creation of mechanisms for providing reparations to the victims of terrorist acts. There should be a clear distinction between victim and perpetrator. The incorporation of those principles would result in a text that had moral authority and credibility.

61. Terrorism threatened the whole basis of civilization and the progress made over the ages in many fields of human endeavour. Every effort should therefore be made to reach agreement on the draft convention.

62. **Mr. Al-Adhami** (Iraq) said that Iraq supported all measures necessary to eradicate the scourge of terrorism. It shared the Secretary-General's view, contained in his report entitled "Uniting against terrorism: recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy" (A/60/825) that whatever grievances terrorists claimed to be responding to, terrorism could not be justified and that the United Nations must maintain the moral high ground in this regard. Iraq's interest in the matter was not merely academic, since it was subject to daily acts of terrorism that were brutalizing its citizens and impeding its reconstruction efforts. Both national counter-terrorism laws, such as Iraq's recently enacted banking and counter-terrorism laws, and international cooperation were necessary to combat terrorism. But while the adoption of international instruments and resolutions was important, the international community also had to study the factors that drive certain individuals to commit these vicious acts, an issue addressed by the Secretary-General's report when it stated that any comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy must include a long-term component addressing conditions conducive to exploitation by terrorists. Terrorism would remain with us until its underlying causes and motivations were dealt with.

63. **Mr. Markiman** (Malaysia) welcomed the recent adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the plan of action it contained. He also commended the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to identify needs for technical assistance in the implementation of the international instruments against terrorism and to provide a mechanism for liaison between donor and recipient countries.

64. Malaysia reiterated its commitment to concerted action to combat international terrorism. As recognized in the Strategy, such action must encompass political, humanitarian, economic and social perspectives if the conditions which bred extremism and encouraged recourse to violence were to be overcome. The root causes of the problem must be addressed.

65. Malaysia was continuing to work towards accession to all the United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and protocols. It had recently ratified the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, and expected to accede to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages by the end of 2006. Legislative amendments to ensure compliance with other relevant obligations were also in progress.

66. In addition, Malaysia was continuing its efforts to conclude treaties on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition with interested countries. The Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), concluded in 2004, had now been signed by all 10 members of ASEAN and was in force among four of them, including Malaysia. Malaysia was also working with its fellow ASEAN members on the elaboration of an ASEAN convention on counter-terrorism, in line with the Vientiane Action Programme for an ASEAN Security Community.

67. Malaysia remained committed to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and urged Committee members to continue their efforts to resolve the outstanding issues. To that end, Malaysia hoped that the Working Group of the Sixth Committee would be convened during the current session. With regard to the question of convening a high-level conference on terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations, Malaysia took the view that the preparatory work for such a conference should proceed in tandem with the continued deliberations on the draft convention. Alternative approaches could also be considered, as suggested by the sponsor delegation.

68. **Mr. Samy** (Egypt) said that while the United Nations had achieved notable success in establishing a legal framework criminalizing terrorism and enlarging the scope of international counter-terrorism cooperation, greater efforts were necessary. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy recognized that terrorism was not merely a security problem to be dealt with by the Security Council and sanctions committees, but a multifaceted phenomenon with political, economic and social dimensions. The General Assembly was the proper venue for addressing those dimensions, and in the coming period, the General Assembly needed to accomplish two things. The first was to finalize the text of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. That would require the bridging of differences, particularly on article 18, which would not happen without flexibility on the part of all concerned. The key was to establish a distinction between the Convention's legal regime as an instrument of international criminal law and the international humanitarian regime governing relations between warring parties.

69. Secondly, the General Assembly should convene an international counter-terrorism conference under United Nations auspices. That required bridging the North-South divide and addressing the underlying causes of terrorism, chief among them the occupation of other people's lands by force and the commission of State terrorism under the cover of implementing United Nations resolutions. Terrorism needed to be dealt with in a way that limited casualties from the war on terrorism, which were exceeding the casualties of terrorism itself. Dialogue among civilizations also needed to be deepened so as to end the sense of privilege on the part of some religions and cultures over others.

70. **Ms. Coelho** (Angola) said that terrorism continued to cause irreparable damage to human lives around the world. The recently adopted United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy could serve as the foundation for the cooperation needed to combat terrorism successfully. Angola joined the international community in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. No cause could ever justify the deliberate killing of innocent people.

71. In fulfilment of its international obligations and as part of its efforts to combat terrorism, Angola had ratified the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and was taking steps to ratify other relevant legal instruments. It was also taking action at the bilateral and multilateral levels in line with counter-terrorism agreements concluded within the framework of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) and the African Union.

72. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that the continuing terrorist attacks around the world served as a painful reminder that terrorism remained a serious threat to all States and peoples. He expressed sorrow at the loss of innocent lives and sympathy for the families of victims.

73. Kazakhstan had consistently condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, but recognized that no country could successfully fight it alone. His Government therefore welcomed the recent adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It was also in the collective interest of all to conclude the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

74. The elimination of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and discrimination was key to the prevention of terrorism. More attention should also be paid to sustainable development and the socio-economic impact of globalization. Furthermore, the fight against terrorism must be conducted in compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in such a way as to avoid linking terrorism to any particular civilization, ethnic group or religion.

75. His delegation fully supported the call to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations as a means of combating terrorism. In that regard, Kazakhstan had recently hosted the Second Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, whose

participants had agreed that the use of violence in the name of religion had nothing to with a genuine understanding of religion and constituted a threat to humanity. They had also affirmed the importance of inter-faith dialogue. The declaration adopted by the Congress had been circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/61/378-S/2006/761).

76. Regional and subregional arrangements, such as the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA), played a critical role in efforts to combat terrorism. CICA currently had 18 members and 8 observer States. At the Second CICA Summit, held in Almaty in 2006, a declaration on eliminating terrorism and promoting dialogue among civilizations had been adopted (A/60/910-S/2006/444).

77. Kazakhstan remained committed to working with other Member States to combat the threat of terrorism.

78. **Mr. Badji** (Senegal) said that terrorism constituted the most serious threat to the international peace and security that the United Nations had been set up to maintain. It therefore required a unanimous and determined response from the international community. The recently adopted United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy set out just such a response. However, in order to be successful, the Strategy must be capable of adapting to the ever-changing methods employed by terrorists.

79. He commended the efforts being made by the Security Council committees and the different institutions of the United Nations system to harmonize and strengthen their action against terrorism. He also welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to institutionalize the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The recent meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs from West and Central Africa organized by UNODC with the support of the Government of Spain, which had issued a declaration and a plan of action for cooperation in combating terrorism, had also been an important initiative.

80. More resources were needed for technical assistance to help States fulfil their obligations under the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Nonetheless, the United Nations conventions against terrorism, together with the various bilateral and regional agreements in force around the world, represented a powerful tool in efforts to combat terrorism. His delegation invited all States to ratify those instruments and implement them in full.

81. Commending the work done so far on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, he said that momentum must be maintained so as to reach a final agreement on the text, including a clear definition of terrorism. His delegation remained of the view that the struggle of peoples against foreign occupation could not be assimilated to terrorism. Nonetheless, that fundamental right must be exercised within the bounds of international law. Moreover, the various international human rights instruments must be scrupulously respected in the fight against terrorism. At the same time, dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations should be instituted so as to promote understanding and harmony among peoples. Senegal would continue to play its part in efforts to combat terrorism.

82. **Mr. Jeenbaev** (Kyrgyzstan), speaking on behalf of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), said that terrorism, which SCO condemned in all its forms and manifestations, remained one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The increasing number of countries and regions affected by terrorism and the ever-changing methods employed by terrorists required a coordinated global response. The fight against terrorism must be conducted in full compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other standards of international law, including those relating to human rights. Double standards should be avoided, and any attempt to associate terrorism with any particular civilization, ethnic group or religion should be resisted. It was also vital to encourage dialogue among cultures and civilizations so as to promote mutual respect and understanding.

83. For the fight against terrorism to be effective, preventive measures should be accompanied by legislative and law enforcement measures, as well as efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. The leading role of the United Nations in combating terrorism, through both the General Assembly and the Security Council, should be enhanced. In that connection, SCO welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular the practical measures it proposed with regard to national capacity-building.

84. Since its founding, SCO had made it a priority to enhance security mechanisms in the face of new threats and challenges. The Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism had been signed at the first meeting of Heads of State of SCO members in June 2001. It contained, for the first time at the international level, definitions of terrorism, separatism and extremism. As a follow-up, the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure had been set up in Tashkent, with responsibility for coordinating SCO member States' efforts to ensure security and promote sustainable development, in line with the Shanghai Convention and the framework for cooperation in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism adopted at the SCO summit in 2005.

85. In 2006, Kazakhstan and China had successfully conducted joint counter-terrorist exercises under the auspices of the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure. Another significant recent development was the approval of a single international register of persons wanted in SCO member States for crimes relating to terrorism, separatism or extremism and persons suspected of committing such crimes.

86. The SCO member States attached great importance to international cooperation to prevent incitement to commit terrorist acts and the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology. The declaration adopted at the 2006 summit of SCO Heads of State had drawn attention to the topic of international information security, including the need to prevent the use of information and communications technologies for terrorist purposes.

87. SCO also paid particular attention to the issue of preventing terrorists from using weapons of mass destruction. In that context, it welcomed the adoption in 2005 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and hoped that it would soon enter into force.

88. The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy would strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism. In that context, it was vital to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as soon as possible. The members of SCO stood ready to contribute to that task, in particular by sharing their experience of negotiating a definition of terrorism for the purposes of the Shanghai Convention.

89. **Mr. Tajima** (Japan) said that, while the international community had made steady progress in its efforts to combat terrorism, terrorists had devised new means of action and had become more diverse. In view of the continuous challenges thus faced by the international community, counter-terrorism strategy needed to be further strengthened through international coordination. Japan welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was a milestone in the work of the United Nations in that field and sent a unified message from its Member States. He welcomed the proposal to institutionalize the Task Force set up in that connection; it would have an important role in its coordination and implementation, including through capacity-building in developing countries. Japan for its part was ready to contribute to the coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism activities by striving to avoid duplication and overlap. He stressed that it was vital to establish an international framework to bring to justice those responsible for terrorist acts and that the Committee's primary task was therefore to move ahead with the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism with a view to its early conclusion.

90. **Ms. Malecela** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that her country had taken practical steps to contribute to the global war against terrorism. It had enacted an anti-terrorism law, with which it had brought other laws into line; it had ratified eight out of twelve related international conventions and protocols and had set in motion the process to ratify the remaining four. At the regional level, it had ratified the Organization of African States Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (1999) and had joined the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money-Laundering Group as well as participating in other initiatives to combat terrorism. At the national level, it was setting up a national centre for counter-terrorism, in addition to the counter-terrorism unit already established at police headquarters, and had introduced new passports incorporating significant security features. Despite those and other measures, the United Republic of Tanzania, as one of the least developed countries, was faced with a great challenge. She called on Member States to help it to meet that challenge through capacity-building. In conclusion, she expressed the hope that the differences seen during negotiations on the Global Strategy would not stand in the way of its implementation.

91. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (People's Republic of China) hailed the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism

Strategy as a major achievement that demonstrated the international community's united resolve to win the fight against terrorism. Nevertheless, terrorist acts continued to be a serious threat to international peace and security and were unreservedly condemned by the Chinese Government, including when they were carried out for political purposes. Efforts to combat terrorism must, however, be in compliance with international law; care should also be taken to avoid double standards and not to link terrorism to any particular civilization, ethnic group or religion. Dialogue between different civilizations should be promoted to enhance mutual understanding. Measures should be taken in the fields of prevention, legislation and enforcement, while at the same time the root causes of the phenomenon, in the form of conflict, social unrest, injustice and poverty, needed to be addressed.

92. The Chinese Government recognized the leading role of the Security Council and the General Assembly in the struggle against terrorism and had actively contributed to the development of its treaty system in that area. It had acceded to 11 of the 13 existing international conventions against terrorism and had set in motion the procedures for early ratification of the International Convention on the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism and accession to the Amendment to the Treaty on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials. At the regional level, it had acceded to the Shanghai Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism, while at the bilateral level it had entered into counter-terrorism agreements with several other Asian countries as well as agreements on criminal justice and extradition. It had also, by enacting provisions on the financing of terrorism, established a legal basis for the prevention, suppression and penalization of terrorist acts. China looked forward to early finalization of the draft convention and endorsed the initiative to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

93. **Mr. Grey-Johnson** (Gambia), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the agreement reached on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a testimony to the commitment of Member States to cooperate in that area. The African States, for their part, had similarly expressed their resolve to take concrete measures to counter terrorism through an Organization of African Unity convention on the subject, adopted in 2002, among other important initiatives. The African Group believed that terrorism was not endemic to any particular region, people or religion and that efforts to combat it would only be successful through a comprehensive approach dealing not only with its symptoms but also with its root causes; in that regard, the United Nations had a central part to play.

94. Turning to the draft comprehensive convention, he stressed that it should not deny the right of peoples to self-determination and should make a clear distinction between terrorism and the right of peoples under foreign occupation to seek their freedom and independence, as recognized in particular in General Assembly resolution 46/51. He said that the United Nations system had a major role to play in efforts to combat terrorism and called for assistance as appropriate to Member States in meeting their obligations under the relevant conventions and Security Council resolutions. The African Group appreciated the initiative of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to encourage cooperation with regional organizations in fighting terrorism and welcomed the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa (2006). Such initiatives were important in strengthening the capacity of African countries to coordinate their actions in that area. It reiterated its willingness to work actively with other delegations in further refining the Counter-Terrorism Strategy and achieving a consensus on the draft comprehensive convention. As for the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, it merited serious consideration.

95. **Mr. Sandage** (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the delegation of Cuba had sought to inject its political agenda into the technical discussions of the Sixth Committee. Luis Posada Carriles, who had been detained by the United States authorities after entering the country illegally, remained in custody, contrary to what had been suggested. It was true that a federal magistrate had recommended his release, but the Government had filed objections thereto; he would consequently remain in custody pending the processing of his case. As for the five individuals convicted of conspiracy, since their conviction had been affirmed by the full United States Court of Appeals, they would also remain in custody. They had benefited from all the guarantees of due process inherent in the independent and impartial

United States judicial system; the same was true in the Posada Carriles case. That was only to be expected in a Government of laws, not of men.

96. **Mrs. Ramos Rodríguez** (Cuba), speaking in turn in exercise of the right of reply, said that she hoped that the case of Luis Posada Carriles would be dealt with appropriately. He, along with the other persons responsible for the attack on the Cuban airlines flight 30 years previously, had not been punished for that crime. He was in prison only because of illegal entry into the United States and had been neither tried nor extradited as was required by international law. She called for him to be extradited to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the name of justice for all his victims, not only Cubans. The other individuals concerned remained free in the United States, where they were allowed to make comments to the press about the attack and to glorify the incident.

97. As for the five Cubans confined in United States prisons, they were not terrorists and had not benefited from due process, contrary to what was claimed by the United States representative; their trial in Miami had not been held under the proper conditions; it had been politicized and no adequate evidence had been produced. They had been investigating the activities of terrorist organizations that did indeed exist in Miami, as had been reported by her delegation to the Security Council. The persons concerned had been unjustly imprisoned for 17 months in violation of international law, including humanitarian law, despite an appeal by the United States Attorney General, which had been rejected. She expressed the hope that the case would be reopened and that they would receive a proper trial. She stressed in conclusion that the rule of law prevailed in Cuba where, despite blockades, all citizens benefited from socio-economic growth, universal education and health care.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.